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Committee for Programme and Coordination

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Agenda item 8

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery Zhdanovich (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 12

Human settlements

1. At its 14th meeting, on 24 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 12)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for programme 12 and the work programme was commended.
4. The importance was emphasized of the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in addressing rapid urbanization, slum formation and urban poverty, especially in Africa, where the urban population was growing rapidly. It was noted that the 2005 World Summit Outcome recognized the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading.
5. The United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its slum upgrading facility, and the innovative creation of an international funding



mechanism to help mobilize capital were supported. UN-Habitat efforts in working closely with the African Union in establishing the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals were commended. Support was expressed for the activities aimed at promoting socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns in realizing the two goals of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant goals of the Millennium Declaration.

6. The view was expressed that coordination and cooperation among partners in the field should be strengthened in small developing countries where the majority of the populations were without decent housing.

7. As indicated in paragraph 12.8, it was noted that the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, at its twenty-first session, scheduled in April 2007, was expected to approve the medium-term strategy and institutional plan 2008-2013 of the Programme and that changes in programme 12, Human settlements, might be required.

8. Support was expressed for the UN-Habitat work programme under subprogramme 1, in strengthening international co-operation, building capacity and partnerships, promoting land reform, property and housing rights, legislative and regulatory frameworks, urban planning and balanced rural-urban linkages, and in mainstreaming gender throughout its activities to address urban poverty and governance, and for the importance of promoting decentralization and local governance. The view was expressed that in addition to providing housing to the poor, providing such basic services as public transportation, security, energy and drinking water was also necessary. The importance of the global campaigns for mobilizing support and raising awareness about the need to ensure the provision of adequate shelter for the poor was stressed. The view was also expressed that other vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people, should be included as active participants and beneficiaries of the efforts mentioned in the last sentence of paragraph 12.1). The important role of South-South cooperation in the dissemination of best practices, and closer coordination and cooperation by development partners in the field were emphasized. It was also mentioned that migration should be addressed and technical cooperation should be pursued to address slum-dwellers and urbanization.

9. The importance of subprogramme 2 was emphasized. Support was expressed for strengthening the monitoring of the Habitat Agenda and the reporting functions to facilitate the realization of the targets of the relevant Millennium Development Goals and the target on water and sanitation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Support was also expressed for the important role played by UN-Habitat in filling critical data gaps and in knowledge management and the dissemination of information on human settlements conditions and trends through the Urban Indicators and Best Practices programme.

10. The view was expressed that more precise indicators of achievement should be formulated under subprogramme 4.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1

Shelter and sustainable human settlements development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), insert the phrase "vulnerable groups, particularly" before the words "the poor".

Subprogramme 3

Regional and technical cooperation

Strategy

Paragraph 12.16

In the second sentence, replace the words "Women and youth" with the words, "Women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities".